

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Another question is would broadcast flag requirement limits the citizens use of the public access channels? Usually a local volunteer would tape a program and then make a copy of it to be shown on their local access channel. Would anyone who would want to create a program need a broadcast flag? How would a parent or citizen record a high school sporting event or a public policy forum for replaying on their local peg channel. If each person will need a flag to tape a program how would they get them? If they couldn't I believe it would be like the British government preventing Thomas Paine and Ben Franklin from using thier printing press.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? Local access centers are beginning to use digital or video servers as sources on their cable channels. If local citizens don't have free access of their digital sources created by their equipment, this could greatly limit both their use of their equipment and their public access cable channels which congress created to allow the citizens an opportunity to express differing points of view.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Again I wonder about the wisdom of creating barriers that could prevent individuals from exercising their first admendment rights to express their ideas. It could also limit local units of government from communicating with the people who electeded them and who they are govening.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Another cost impact would be to the local access centers who usually are small and with a limited capital budget. It could take 2 or 3 budget cycles before they could replace their equipment to handle this new requirment. Many of them still need to use VHS equipment to allow their volunteers and subscribers o create local programs for their access channels.